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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G

31st D E C E M B E R , 1 9 4 7 .

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UPPINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1 9 4 7

Mr. Chairmen & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine, and the report is on the same lines as that of last year.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births	-	Legitimate	46	59	105
	-	Illegitimate	4	4	8
			<u>50</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>113</u>
Still Births	-	Legitimate	4	-	4
		Illegitimate	-	-	-
			<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>
			<u>Rate for District</u>	<u>Rate for England and Wales</u>	
Birth Rate	...	...	21.5	20.5	
Death Rate	...	...	19.2	12.0	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	44.2	41	

CAUSES OF DEATH

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	-	1
Influenza	...	...	1	-
Cancer of the bucal cavity and oesophagus	...	...	1	-
Cancer of the stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	1
Cancer of breast	...	...	-	2
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	6	2
Diabetes	...	...	1	-
Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	8	11
Cd. fwd.			<u>21</u>	<u>18</u>

<u>Causes of Death (Continued)</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Brought forward	21	18
Heart Diseases	11	14
Other diseases of the circulatory system	2	5
Bronchitis	3	4
Pneumonia	2	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	-
Appendicitis	-	1
Other digestive disturbances ...	1	1
Nephritis	3	-
Congenital malformation - birth injury - infant diseases	1	2
Road traffic accidents	1	1
Other violent causes	-	1
All other causes	4	4
<u>T Y P E O F D I S T R I C T</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>52</u>

The district is almost entirely agricultural. Efforts are still being made to attract suitable industries.

The town is, of course, the seat of the very famous Public School.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health - John Young, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H. Camb.

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector. - J. Yates, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination:
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Other Foods.

The Sanitary Inspector also carried out the duties of Housing Manager during 1947.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations were carried out during the year in the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Leicester:-

Blood	5
Throat Swabs	3
Sputum	1
Faeces	2
Swab from sacral abscess	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER.

Number of Parishes with piped water supply :-

(a)	from public mains	...	...	...	...	2
(b)	from private reservoirs	...	...	...	...	1

Number of Parishes without a piped water supply 17

Number of samples taken for analysis:-

(a)	from piped supply	...	satisfactory	1
(b)	from well supplies	...	satisfactory	5
		...	unsatisfactory	5
		...	polluted	16

Where unsatisfactory water samples were taken the consumers were instructed to boil their water, alternative supplies were arranged or improvements to the wells were carried out.

There were complaints of shortage of water from all the villages except Lyddington.

UPPINGHAM.

The town of Uppingham is supplied by the Uppingham Waterworks Company. There are a few houses not connected to the supply.

LYDDINGTON.

Water is obtained in bulk from the Uppingham Waterworks Company and supplied to the public by standpipes. 26 houses, a Hostel, the village school and 5 cattle troughs are connected to the supply. There is no tendency to plumbo-solvency.

OTHER PARISHES.

In the other 17 Parishes the water supply is obtained from shallow wells.

Investigations are proceeding with the object of providing a piped water supply for the whole District. It is hoped to obtain this supply from Leicester Corporation as soon as possible, and if the scheme can be carried out it will be of very great benefit to the district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Number of cesspools in the District at
the end of 1947 86

Number of cesspools abolished during 1947 Nil.

A scheme is being prepared for the extension of Uppingham Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works and it is hoped to proceed with this work as soon as circumstances permit.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes for the rest of the District are being prepared. Small Sewage Works are already in being at Glaston and Belton.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in the District at the end of 1947:-

(a)	Privies	...	...	...	51
(b)	Pail Closets	...	...	...	913
(c)	Water Closets	...	...	...	697

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year a motor refuse collection vehicle has been purchased and systematic scavenging of the whole district is being carried out once a fortnight. This is undoubtedly a step in the right direction.

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report.

Total number of complaints received ... 255

Total number of defects or nuisances
discovered ... 243

Nature of inspections:-

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Re-visits.</u>
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	1,060	1,080
Tents, Vans, etc. ...	1	2
Food Premises ...	23	33
Dairies and cowsheds ...	13	26
Offensive trades ...	-	-
Factories & workshops ...	22	11
Shops ...	19	11
Other premises ...	35	35
	<u>1,153</u>	<u>1,198</u>

N O T I C E S.

Preliminary

	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding on 1st January ...	-	-
Issued during the year ...	-	245
Complied with during year ...	-	202
Outstanding 31st December ...	-	31

Statutory

Issued during the year ...	-	-
Complied with during year ...	-	-
Outstanding 31st December ...	-	-

6. SHOPS. Action taken during the year under the Provisions of the Shops Act, 1934:-

	<u>Outstanding from Previous Year.</u>	<u>Defects Found</u>	<u>Defects Remedied</u>	<u>Outstan- ding 31 Dec.</u>
Sanitary Conveniences	-	1	1	-
Temperature	-	-	-	-
Ventilation	-	1	1	-



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7. RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The Sanitary Inspector made a special report to the Council, which I think is worthy of putting on record. The report is as follows :-

"The survey has necessitated the inspection of 1,351 houses and was carried out at the instigation of the Ministry of Health with the object of obtaining information regarding housing conditions and needs in Rural Districts.

Access to most of the houses was gained with little or no objection. In a few instances objections were raised for various reasons. Some tenants suggested we should be asking them to sub-let a part of the house, others that we should be putting the landlord to expense, others said we should ultimately remove them and they wanted to stay where they were, and some even suggested we were snooping for the Ministry of Food. However, speaking generally there was co-operation for which I wish to thank the people of the district.

What the Survey revealed.

The houses were placed in five classes.

1. Houses which were fit for habitation.
2. Houses with minor defects.
3. Houses requiring extensive repair.
4. Houses requiring reconditioning.
5. Houses requiring demolition on account of their inability to be brought up to standard at reasonable expense.

These classifications were made bearing in mind the terms of the Public Health Act, 1936, the Housing Act 1936 and the provisions of local Byelaws.

The Classification resulted as follows:

	Class 1.	208	Houses.
	Class 2.	188	"
	Class 3.	170	"
	Class 4.	339	"
	Class 5.	446	"
Total		<u>1,351</u>	

showing that 33% of the houses are in class 5 and other figures reveal that 47% have at least two rooms below a standard height of 7'6", 62% have windows below standard, 36% have unsatisfactory food storage arrangements and 58% have dampness of a permanent and progressive nature.

The figures arrived at in the classification are by no means hard and fast, but rather of a preliminary nature. For instance nobody has yet set out what is reasonable expense. However, in a recent case it was held that an expenditure of £150 on a house which had cost £300 was unreasonable. My own experience is that reconditioning is, generally speaking, not a paying proposition.

Overcrowding.

Generally speaking there is no overcrowding in the district. The 125 Council houses have 548 occupants. This is an average of 4.4 persons per house and the remaining 1,226 houses have 3,623 occupants. This is an average of approximately 3 persons per house.

The Council houses have an average of approximately 3 bedrooms per house and the other houses 2.5 bedrooms per house.

General Observations.

Attitude of Landlords.

The attitude of landlords is changing. Many of the landlords realise that property of the poorer type is a liability rather than an asset considering the ridiculously low rents and the high cost of repairs. In fact one owner is contemplating handing over his houses to the tenants and another has told me that he feels he is going to work to keep the property in existence and that he would welcome demolition. There are, however, some landlords who describe very bad houses as "nice little houses" etc: and seem to want to hang on to them at all costs. Such owners think that a coat of paint or distemper constitutes reconditioning and blame all defects, even permanent dampness, defective roofs and the like on the tenants.

There are in the district numerous examples of how reconditioning ought not to be done.

Attitude of Tenants.

Very many of the tenants are desirous of having better accommodation. However, there are quite a number who abuse property and are satisfied with any kind of condition so long as the rent is low.

Rents.

Many of the rents are ridiculously low, in the region of from 2/- to 5/- per week. Reconditioning of much of the property so rented could not pay for the following reason.

It is enacted that a landlord can charge 8% on capital outlay for improvements. In a case in Leicester it was held that repairs and extension to drains ranked as improvements. This leads one to realise what the rents of some cottages would be after reconditioning.

Comparable figures.

It may be felt that a figure of 33% of the houses inspected being placed in class 5 is high. However, I consider that such is by no means the case, and the figure will probably be higher.

The old idea of taking as a standard the general type of working class houses in a district is now out of date. What is aimed at is a national standard with uniformity between districts. I think this is sound as there appears to be no reason why people in one district should not be as well housed as those in another.

To substantiate that the figure of 33% is very reasonable may I quote the following figures for a modern city. There were 79,000 houses in the city,

- 3,765 have been demolished,
- 496 " " represented to the Ministry,
- 1,238 are awaiting representation,
- 2,000 are scheduled,
- 15,693 are to be proposed for demolition,
- giving a total of 23,198 for demolition or approximately 30%.

The Solution.

Large scale demolition is impossible at the present time, and is not looked for by the Ministry.

However, I feel that certain houses may be demolished by mutual arrangement with the owner or even by individual demolition orders as they become redundant.

Other action will be recommended to the Committee when the time is opportune. It often happens that the problem solves itself in certain sections of a district. I feel that this might happen in High Street where houses may very well turn into shops.

As a last remark I feel satisfied from observation and experience that the happiest communities are those where houses are owner occupied and I feel that when the time is opportune private house building for own occupation should be encouraged.

H O U S I N G.

1. GENERAL.

There are approximately 100 houses which were being dealt with at the outbreak of war under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936. These would normally have been demolished and every opportunity is being taken to demolish these houses as they become redundant. 14 such houses have been demolished, and negotiations for the demolition of two others is proceeding.

As we are not allowed to condemn houses at present, the amount of repair work required throughout the District tends to increase as conditions deteriorate. Only urgent and necessary repairs are asked for, houses being dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

2. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	...	...	...	185
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					205
2.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	16

3. POST-WAR HOUSING.

During the year four Swedish timber houses were erected in the district. Thirty houses were under construction and tenders have been accepted for the erection of a further 40 houses.

The absence of piped water supplies and sewage disposal systems is still a great obstruction to the Housing Programme. Progress is closely linked up with the solution of these sanitary problems.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION
OF FOOD.

1. MILK SUPPLY.

	<u>Cowkeepers</u>	<u>Dairymen or</u> <u>Purveyors of</u> <u>Milk (other</u> <u>than Cow-</u> <u>keepers).</u>
Number on Register	69	1
Number of inspections of premises	38	1

Three samples of milk were taken during the year. These were examined by the Pathologist for T.B. and reported on favourably.

2. MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM.

The conditions of the five premises where ice cream is manufactured in the district were reviewed during the year. Several visits were made by your Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector, when advice was given to the occupants on methods of manufacture and necessary improvements.

18 samples were taken and submitted to the analyst who reported on them as follows :-

Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.
Sanisfactory.	Fair.	Unsatisfactory.	
4	2	10	2

The later samples showed considerable improvement. This matter will be followed up during 1948.

3. THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936 and 1938.

Licences are issued by the County Council. Eight producers are licensed under the above Order, 1936.

Repairs and reconstruction to several of the dairy premises are urgently needed. Some progress has been made in this direction.

4. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following foods were examined and found unfit for human consumption:-

1 qr. 1 stone. 3 lbs. Sausage Meat.
3 stone. 4½ lbs. Fish.
3 qrs. 1 stone 7½ lbs. Meat (Canned).
7½ lbs. Fish (Tinned)
6-1 lb. Tins Milk.
1 stone. 11 lbs. Tinned Fruit & Vegetable.
1 Cwt Oatmeal.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease during the year has been very light, as will be seen from the following details.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year,
1947.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	2	1	-
Pneumonia	6	-	-
Measles	11	-	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Dysentery	6	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-

The District fortunately had no cases of Infantile Paralysis, although this disease was prevalent and widespread in the country generally during the summer months.

DISEASE.		Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	35	45	65 & Over
			2	3	4	5	10	15	25	35	45	64	
Scarlet Fever	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Measles	...	-	1	-	-	5	3	1	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

T U B E R C U L O S I S

New Cases and Mortality During 1947.

AGE GROUPS	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	1

